



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TWO CONVICTED MURDERERS SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING CRACK COCAINE**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Kansas City, Mo., men who are currently serving sentences for murder in Kansas were sentenced in federal court today, in a separate and unrelated case, for their role in a crack cocaine conspiracy.

**Chatha M. Tatum**, 26, and **Charles E. Winston**, 20, both of Kansas City, were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning. **Tatum** was sentenced to 17 years and six months in federal prison without parole and **Winston** was sentenced to 21 years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

The court ordered that both sentences be served consecutively to sentences the co-defendants were ordered to serve after being convicted of murder and attempted murder in Kansas, Graves said. **Tatum's** federal sentence will be served consecutively to a separate "Hard 50" years on the murder and attempted murder conviction, and **Winston's** federal sentence will be served consecutively to a separate sentence of 38 years and nine months for the murder and attempted murder conviction.

**Tatum** and **Winston** were convicted of murder and attempted murder on Sept. 19, 2004, in Wyandotte County, Kan. The murder and attempted murder took place on Dec. 17, 2003.

Today's sentences stem from charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 25, 2004, in Kansas City.

On June 29, 2005, a federal jury found **Winston** guilty of the charge of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on Feb. 4, 2004, in Jackson County, Mo.

On May 27, 2005, **Tatum** pleaded guilty to the charge of possessing with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on Feb. 4, 2004.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)